

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS.

H. J. R. No. 1.]

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION.

Amending Section 9 of Article 8 of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for the creation of improvement districts in cities of more than five thousand inhabitants, and charging the cost of certain improvements made therein against the abutting property.

SECTION 1. *Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:* That Section 9 of Article 8 of the Constitution of the State of Texas, be so amended as to hereafter read as follows:

Section 9. The State tax on property, exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt, and of the taxes provided for the benefit of public free schools, shall never exceed thirty-five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation; and no county, city or town shall levy more than twenty-five cents for city or county purposes, and not exceeding fifteen cents for roads and bridges, and not exceeding fifteen cents to pay jurors, on the hundred dollars valuation, except for payment of debts incurred prior to the adoption of the amendment September 25, A. D. 1883, and for the erection of public buildings, streets, sewers, water works and other permanent improvements, not to exceed twenty-five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation, in any one year, and except as is in this Constitution otherwise provided; and the Legislature may also authorize an additional annual ad valorem tax to be levied and collected for the further maintenance of the public roads; provided, that a majority of the qualified property taxpaying voters of the county voting at an election to be held for that purpose shall vote such tax, not to exceed fifteen cents on the one hundred dollars valuation, of the property subject to taxation in such county. And the Legislature may pass local laws for the maintenance of the public roads and highways, without the local notice required for special or local laws.

In addition to the foregoing, cities of more than five thousand inhabitants may lay out within their corporate limits, improvement districts in which they, by and with the consent of a majority of the taxpayers owning real estate therein, may build sidewalks and charge the cost thereof against the abutting property, and may build sewers and pave streets and charge one-third of the cost thereof against the abutting property on either side of the streets upon which such improvements are made in such district, and the amount charged against all such abutting property shall be deemed and held to be a tax against and a lien upon such abutting property, and the Legislature is required to enact laws prescribing the means for ascertaining the amount properly chargeable against each parcel of abutting property, and providing for the enforcement of its collection.

SEC. 2. The Governor is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation for submitting this amendment to the Constitution to the qualified voters of the State of Texas, on the first Tuesday in August, A. D. 1907, at which election all voters favoring this amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots: "For the amendment to Section 9 of Article 8 of the Constitution, permitting property owners in

cities of more than five thousand inhabitants to create improvement districts, one-third the cost of which to be charged against abutting property on either side of the street." And the voters opposed to said amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the following: "Against the amendment to Section 9 of Article 8 of the Constitution, permitting property owners in cities of more than five thousand inhabitants to create improvement districts, one-third the cost of which to be charged against abutting property on either side of the street."

SEC. 3. The lateness in the session, the crowded condition of the calendars of both houses, and the importance of this proposed amendment, create an emergency and an imperative public necessity demanding that the constitutional rule, and Senate Rule No. 37, requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended, and the same are hereby suspended.

[NOTE.—The enrolled bill shows that the foregoing act passed the House of Representatives by the following vote, yeas 96, nays 2; passed the Senate with amendments by the following vote, yeas 22, nays 3; the House concurred in the Senate amendments by the following vote, yeas 99, nays 1.]

BROWNSVILLE—RELATING TO OUTRAGES PERPETRATED ON CITIZENS.

H. C. R. No. 2.] HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.

Whereas, on account of the outrages perpetrated on the citizens of Brownsville, Texas, by the negro soldiers, a part of the United States Army stationed there, the President of the United States, after a thorough investigation and the disclosure of all the facts regarding said matter, acting within his constitutional authority as commander in chief of the army, discharged without honor the companies guilty of committing said outrages; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Texas, the Senate concurring, that we heartily commend and endorse the stand taken by President Roosevelt in his act in discharging said troops, and also that of the Texas delegation in Congress in their support of the President in this matter; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, and to each member of the Texas Delegation in Congress.

Approved January 24, 1907.

JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

H. C. R. No. 5.] HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.

Be it Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules of the Twenty-